

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Withdrawn) A bonding method comprising the steps of placing a second member with a fixed shape on a first member with a flexible and flat configuration with a hot-melt adhesive being sandwiched therebetween,
heating at least said second member up to a temperature equal to or greater than a
5 melting point of said hot-melt adhesive, and
cooling said first member and said second member while pressing said second member so as to contact said first member closely.

2. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 1 wherein a heating temperature is 200° C or less and a heating time is 10 seconds or less at said heating step.

3. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 1 wherein said first member and said second member are pressed to each other so as to contact each other closely and said second member is heated through a press device in contact therewith at said heating step.

4. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 3 wherein said first member and said second member are pressed to each other so as to contact each other closely and said second member is heated through a press device by suffering ultrasonic vibration at said heating step.

5. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 3 wherein part of a portion of said first member contacting said second member is transmuted or removed at least partially due to heat at said heating step.

6. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 3 wherein said heating step is carried out so as to make a portion of said first member contacting said second member after bonding be thinner than said first member before bonding and not to have a through-hole.

7. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 3 wherein heating is performed at an output power of 800 to 2000W for 3 seconds or less at said heating step.

8. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 3 wherein said cooling step is carried out within 2 seconds after completing said heating step.

9. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 1 wherein said first member is made of cloth, leather, resin or paper, and said second member is made of glass, stone, pottery, porcelain, metal or resin.

10. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 1 wherein a third member with a flat shape and a certain degree of hardness and flexibility is sandwiched between at least one of surfaces of said first member as well as said second member contacting said press device and said press device, and pressed at least at either of said heating step or said cooling step.

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11. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 10 wherein said third member is Teflon (trademark) glass sheet.

12. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus comprising:
a heating section for heating at least a second member up to a temperature equal to or greater than a melting point of a hot-melt adhesive, while said second member with a fixed

5 shape is placed on a first member with a flexible and flat configuration with said hot-melt adhesive being sandwiched therebetween and

a cooling section for cooling said first member and said second member while pressing said second member so as to contact said first member closely.

13. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 12 wherein heating temperature is 200° C or less and heating time is 10 seconds or less at said heating section.

14. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 12 wherein said heating section presses said first member and said second member to each other so as to contact each other closely and heats said second member through a press device in contact therewith.

15. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 14 wherein said heating section is a ultrasonic press device which presses said first member and said second member to each other so as to contact each other closely and heats said second member by applying ultrasonic vibration to said second member through a press device in contact therewith.

16. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 14 wherein said heating section heats at an output power of 800 to 2000 W for 3 seconds or less.

17. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 14, further comprising a transferring section for transferring said first member and said second member from said heating section to said cooling section within 2 seconds.

18. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 12 wherein a third member with a flat shape and a certain degree of hardness and flexibility is sandwiched between said first member as well as said second member and at least one of surfaces of said

heating section or said cooling section contacting said first member or said second member,
5 and pressed.

19. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 18 wherein said third member is Teflon (trademark) glass sheet.

20-23. (Canceled)

24. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 4 wherein part of a portion of said first member contacting said second member is transmuted or removed at least partially due to heat at said heating step.

25. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 4 wherein heating is performed at an output power of 800 to 2000W for 3 seconds or less at said heating step.

26. (Withdrawn) A bonding method as stated in Claim 4 wherein said cooling step is carried out within 2 seconds after completing said heating step.

27. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 15 wherein said heating section heats at an output power of 800 to 2000 W for 3 seconds or less.

28. (Withdrawn) A bonding apparatus as stated in Claim 15, further comprising a transferring section for transferring said first member and said second member from said heating section to said cooling section within 2 seconds.

29. (New) A leather comprising a first member having a flexible and flat configuration and a second member having a fixed shape bonded to said first member by a bonding method comprising steps of:

5 placing said second member on said first member with a hot-melt adhesive being sandwiched therebetween;

10 pressing said second member to said first member by using a press device so as to contact each other closely and then applying ultrasonic vibration to said second member through said press device which contacts said second member so as to heat said second member up to a temperature equal to or greater than a melting point of said hot-melt adhesive, and transmute or remove a surface layer of said first member in a portion of said first member contacting said second member by heating; and

cooling said first member and said second member while pressing said second member so as to contact said first member closely.

30. (New) The leather as stated in Claim 29 wherein a portion of a waterproof layer of the surface layer of said first member is transmuted or removed.

31. (New) The leather as stated in Claim 29 wherein said second member is made of glass, stone, pottery, porcelain, metal or resin.

32. (New) A method of bonding comprising:

(a) providing a first member comprising leather and a second member having a fixed shape;

5 (b) placing said second member on said first member with a hot-melt adhesive positioned between said first and second members;

(c) pressing said second member to said first member by using a press device, said pressing further comprising:

10 (i) applying ultrasonic vibration to said second member through said press device so as to heat said second member to a temperature equal to or greater than a melting point of said hot-melt adhesive, and so as

to transmute or remove by heating a surface layer of said first member

over an area of said first member contacting said second member; and

- (ii) cooling said first member and said second member while pressing said second member to said first member.

33. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein a portion of a waterproof layer of the surface layer of said first member is transmuted or removed.

34. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said second member is made of a material selected from the group consisting of glass, stone, pottery, porcelain, metal and resin.

35. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 32, wherein said first member has a flexible and flat configuration.

36. (New) A method of bonding a first member comprising leather to a second member having a fixed shape, the method comprising:

(a) placing said second member on said first member with a hot-melt adhesive positioned between said first and second members;

5 (b) pressing said second member to said first member by using a press device, said pressing further comprising:

- (i) applying ultrasonic vibration to said second member through said press device so as to heat said second member to a temperature equal to or greater than a melting point of said hot-melt adhesive, and so as to transmute or remove by heating a surface layer of said first member over an area of said first member contacting said second member; and
- (ii) cooling said first member and said second member while pressing said second member to said first member.

37. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein a portion of a waterproof layer of the surface layer of said first member is transmuted or removed.

38. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said second member is made of a material selected from the group consisting of glass, stone, pottery, porcelain, metal and resin.

39. (New) The method as claimed in Claim 36, wherein said first member has a flexible and flat configuration.